

IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE

International Application No. : PCT/IB00/01276
International Filing Date : 8 SEPTEMBER 2000
Priority Date(s) Claimed : 9 SEPTEMBER 1999
Applicant(s) (DO/EO/US) : GHISALBERTI, Carlo

Title: SYNTHETIC VEGETAL MELANINS, PROCESS FOR THEIR PRODUCTION AND COMPOSITIONS
CONTAINING THEREOF

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to calculating the national fee, and prior to examination in the National Phase of the above-identified International application, please amend as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) Synthetic vegetal melanins obtainable by in vitro polymerization of at least one monomer unit (a), and optionally at least one compound (b), wherein:
 - (a) is a plant polyphenol; and
 - (b) is an eumelanin precursor;
said synthetic vegetal melanin being characterized by a Red:Green:Blue ratio comprised between 1 : 0.88 : 0.84 and 1 : 0.64 : 0.41.

3. (Amended) Synthetic vegetal melanins according to claim 2, wherein the plant polyphenol of formula (I) with X being a residue of formula (II) is a flavonoid selected from the group consisting of quercetin, fisetin, fustin, luteolin, OPC, catechin, epicatechin, GC, GCG, EGC,EGCG, myricetin, dihydroquercetin and mixtures thereof.